UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO: Mr. Belmont

DATE: December 18, 1963

FROM: A. Rosen

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION
ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT

While talking to Mr. J. Lee Rankin on 12-17-63, Mr. Rankin indicated that he was somewhat concerned over the security aspects relative to Earl Warren, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Mr. Rankin mentioned that the Chief Justice seems to have no regard whatsoever for his own security and on the afternoon of the 17th, the Chief Justice walked from the Supreme Court to the Veterans of Foreign Wars building where the President's Commission is now located. The office that is to be occupied by Warren is on the fourth floor of the building in the front and Mr. Rankin commented that he personally was quite concerned over the safety of the Chief Justice. Mr. Rankin commented that there were probably as many people in the country that would like to see physical harm come to the Chief Justice as there were that had unfriendly feelings towards the President and possibly more such individuals.

Mr. Rankin stated that he was desirous of knowing whether or not it would be possible for any kind of a check to be made in the general area of the Veterans of Foreign Wars building to determine what individuals were in the area that might be emotionally disturbed or have any feeling of animosity towards the Chief Justice.

Mr. Rankin was advised that making such a check of an area would be an extremely difficult task and would not be practical and it would certainly be well for the Chief Justice to take necessary precautions relative to his own safety. Rankin stated that he fully agreed with the suggestion but for the present time he had been unsuccessful in getting this thought across to the Chief Justice. Mr. Rankin was advised that the Bureau would, as we had in the past, pass on any information that came to our attention relative to any individuals that expressed animosity towards the Chief Justice.

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NOT RECORDED
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We are instructing our Washington Field Office to be alert to any information indicating animosity to the Chief Justice, also if you approve, Mr. Malley will advise Mr. Rankin he may wish to alert the Metropolitan Police Department inasmuch as protecting of citizens is their function.

1 - Mr. DeLoach

JM:cag:sdw
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